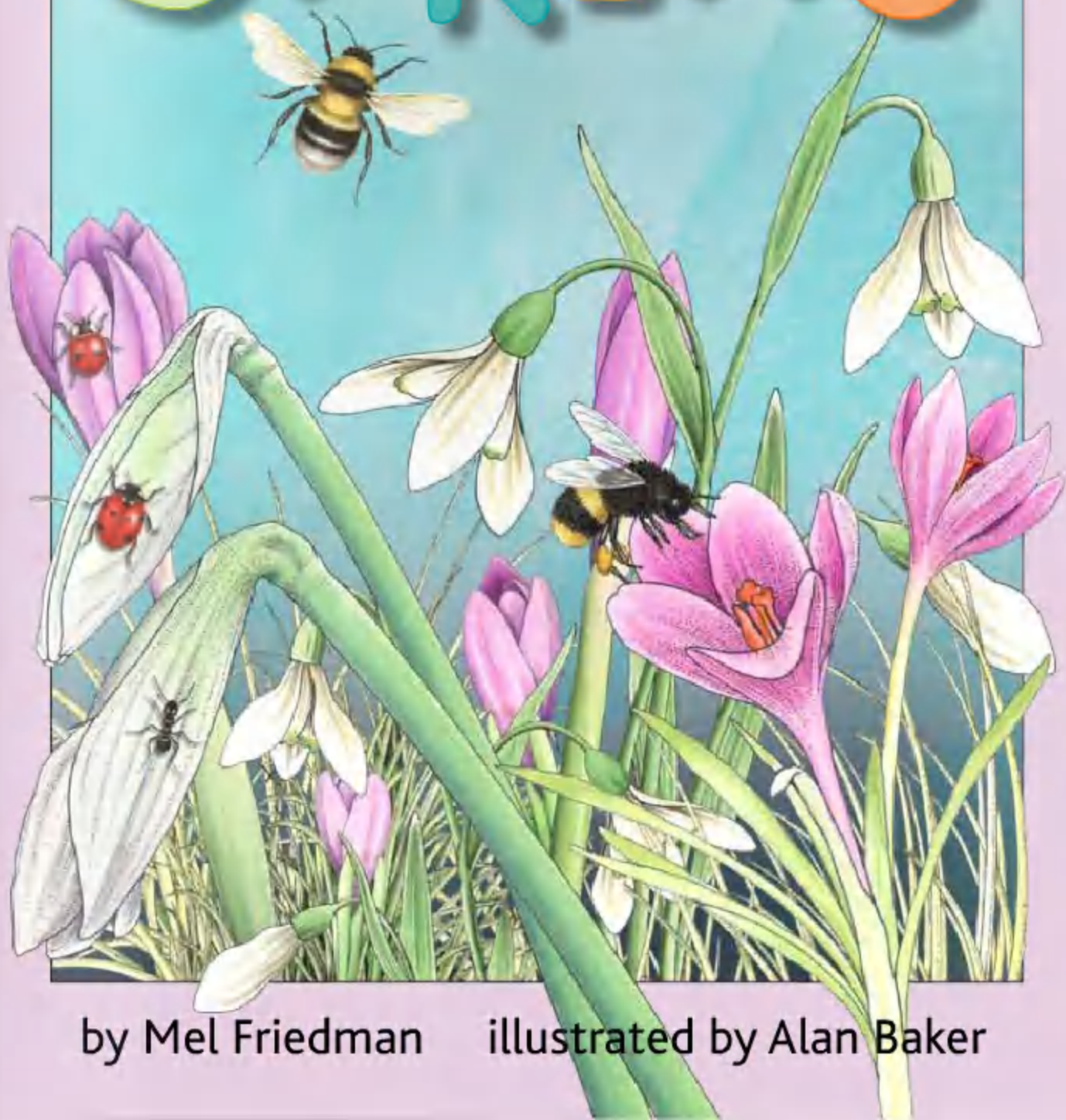


# SPRING



by Mel Friedman      illustrated by Alan Baker



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Book design by Jaye Medalia



**By the end of the long, dark winter, the  
world is holding its breath, waiting for  
SPRING.**





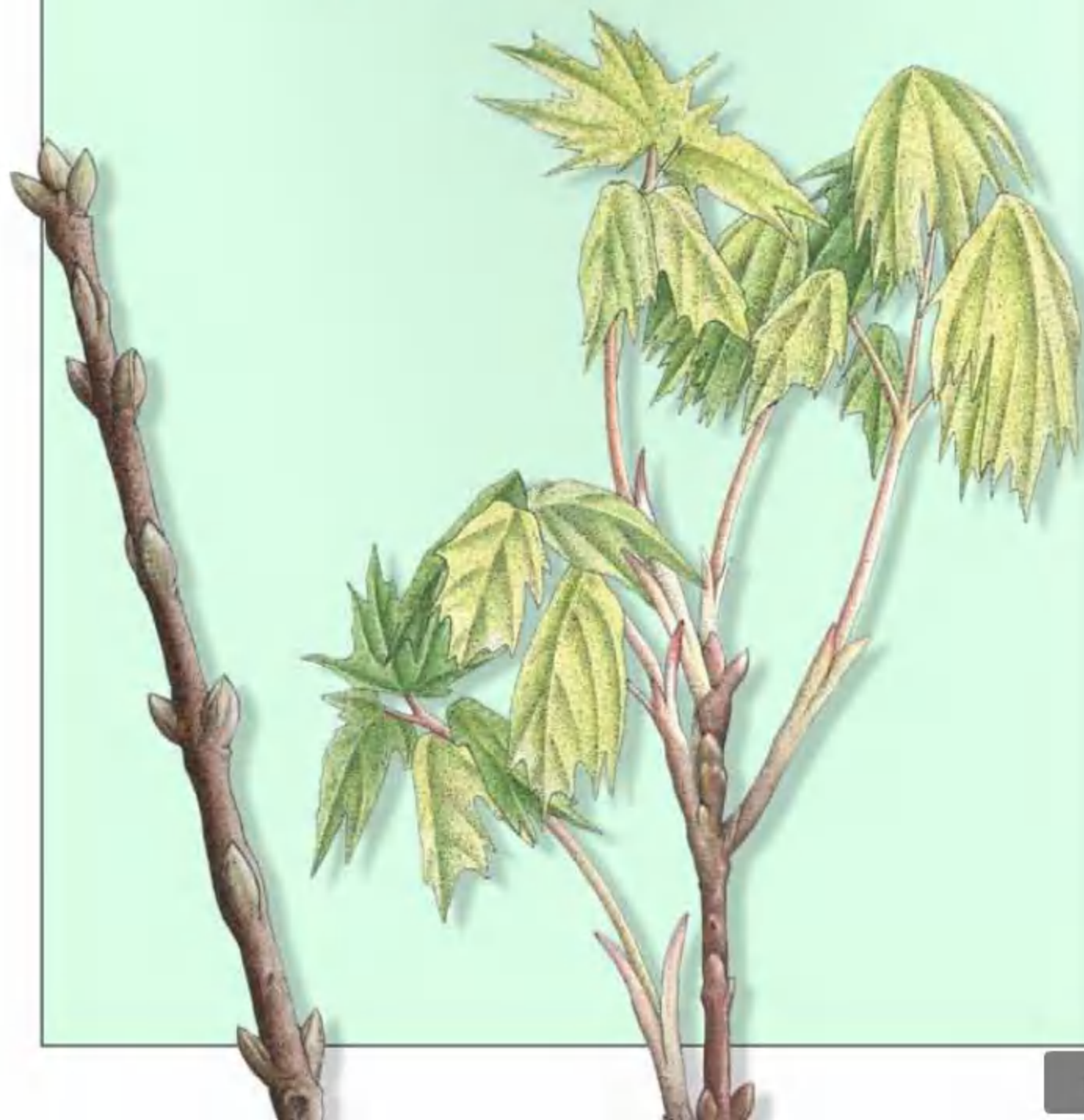
When the last  
snow starts to  
melt, and the days  
begin to get longer  
and warmer...  
that means spring  
is in the air.

The soft new grass comes up in  
a crayon shade of yellow-green.

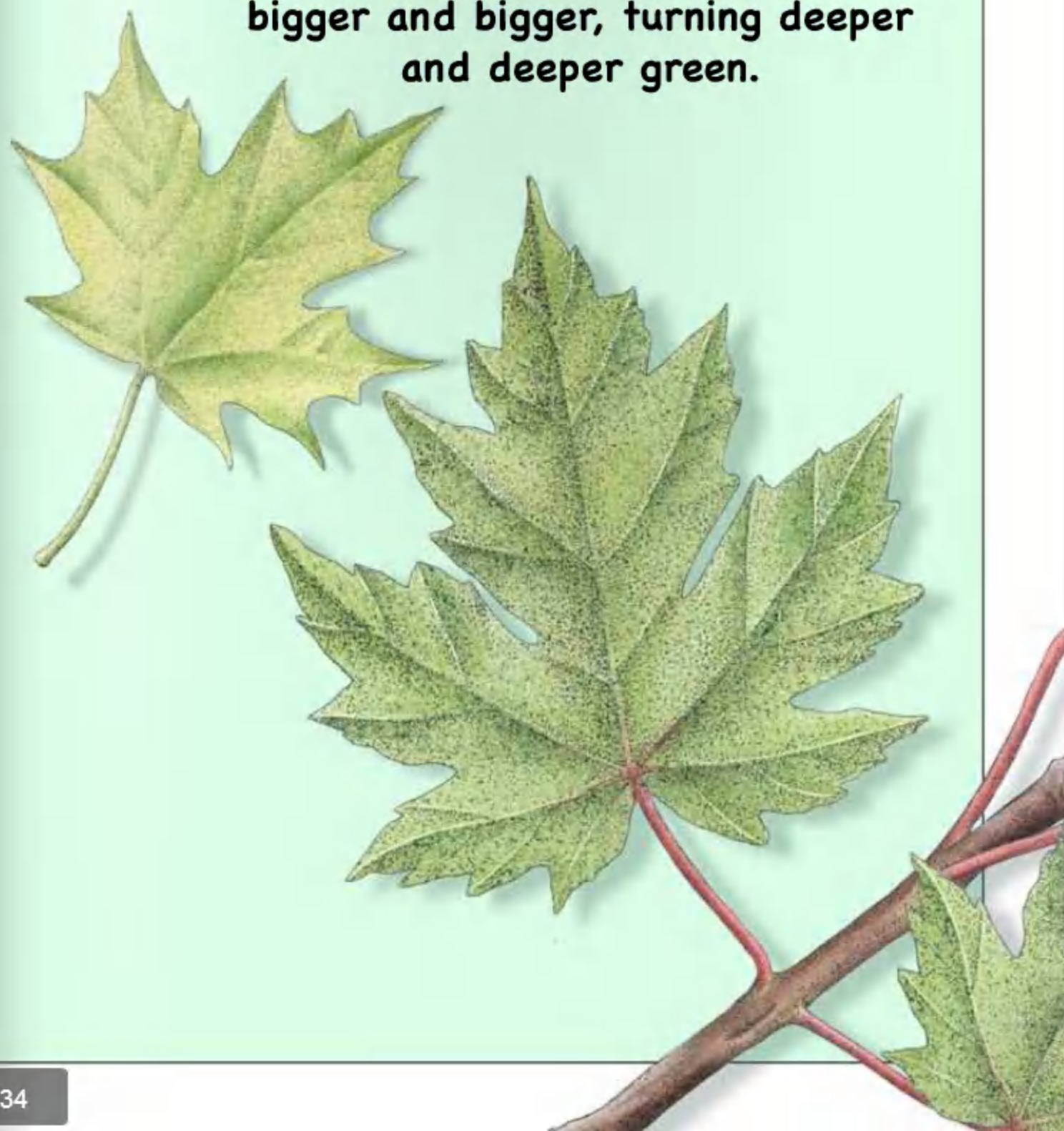




After the grass is up, tiny buds  
start to appear on the bare trees.  
They become tiny leaves.



Day by day the leaves grow  
bigger and bigger, turning deeper  
and deeper green.





**Snowdrops and crocuses grow in gardens  
and window boxes. The bees and the  
bugs begin to make their visits. They  
buzz among the flowers.**

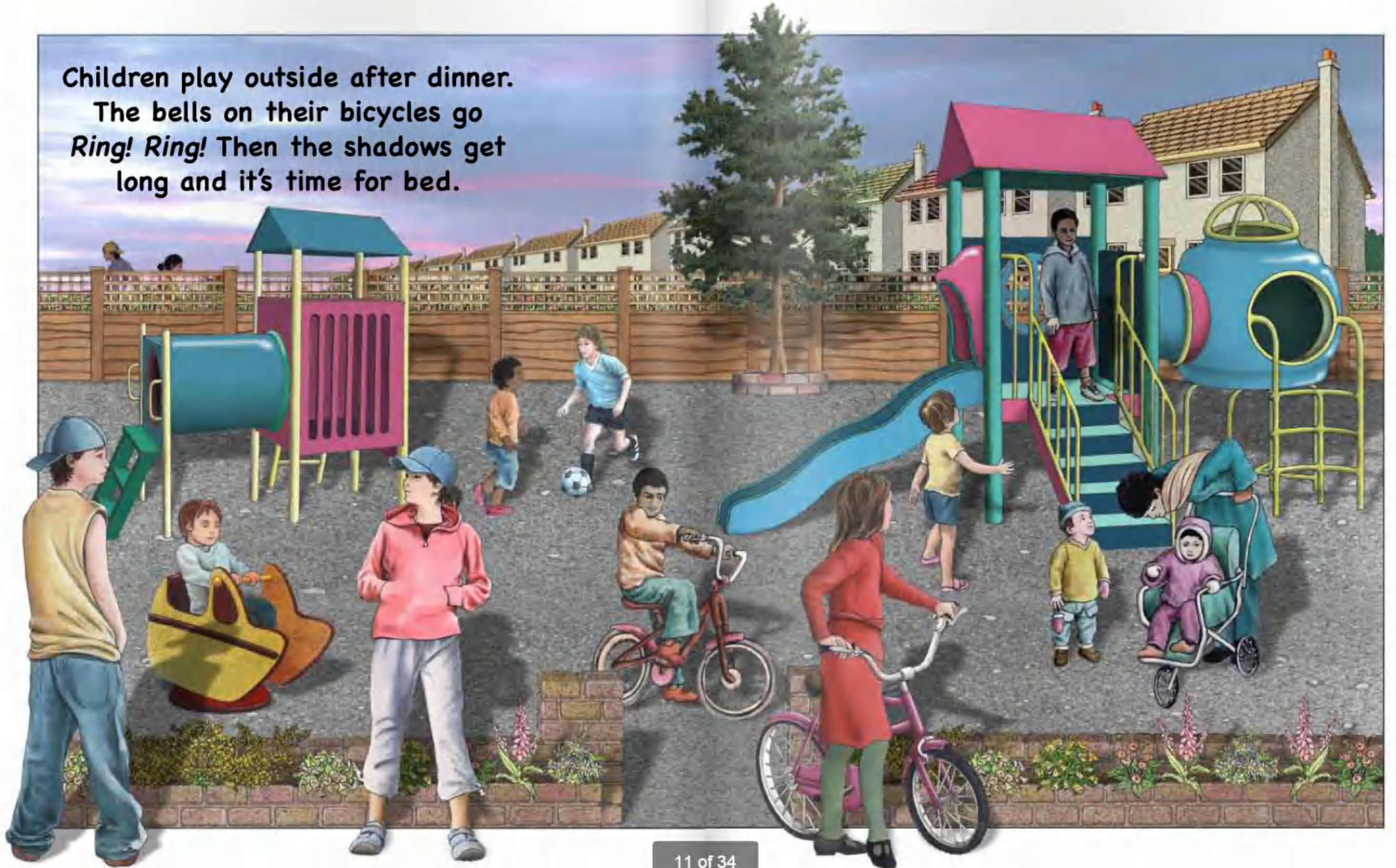


**In shadowed places, mushrooms  
and ferns sprout up.**





Children play outside after dinner.  
The bells on their bicycles go  
*Ring! Ring!* Then the shadows get  
long and it's time for bed.

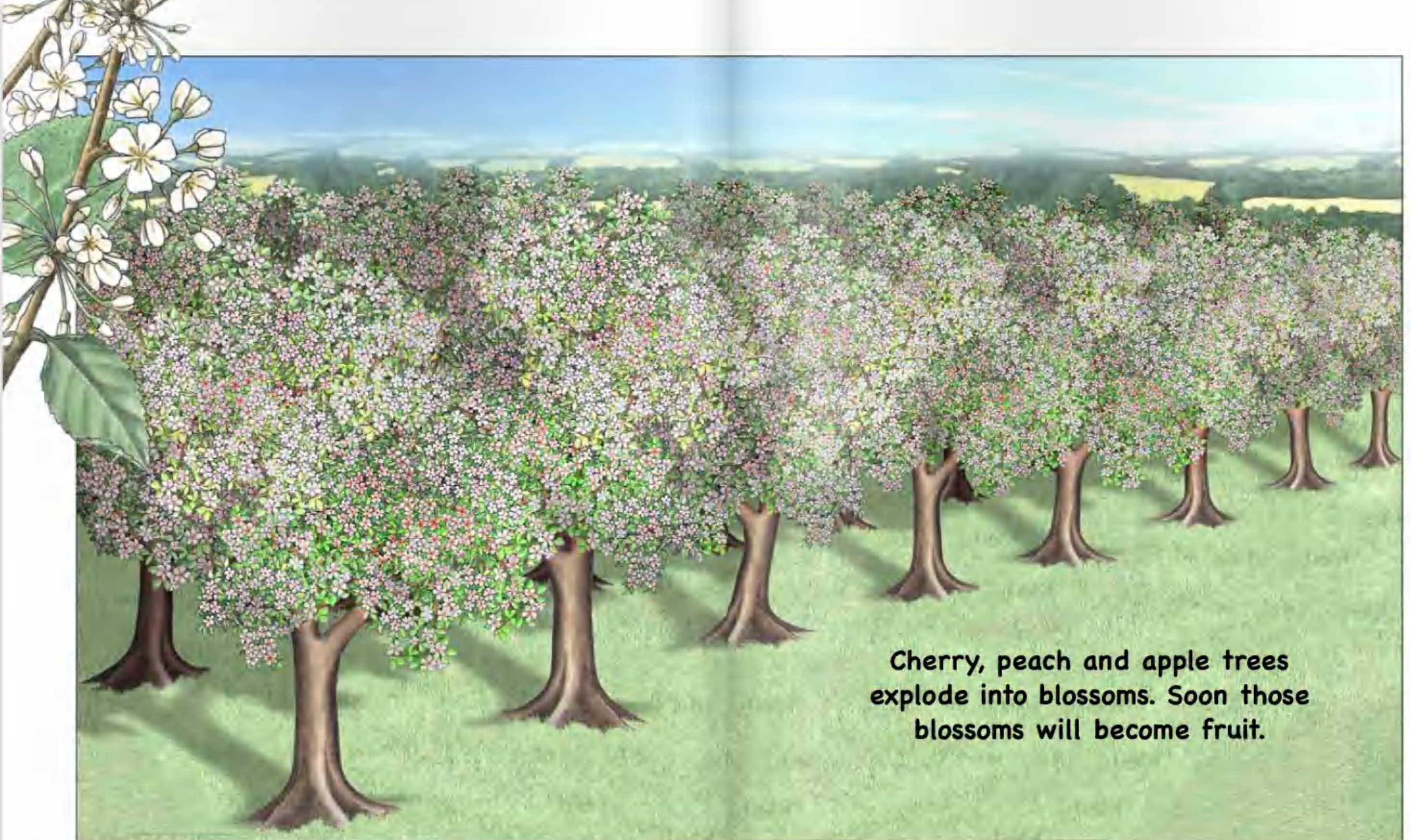




On the mountaintops, the snow  
melts, *drip-drop*. The water  
runs down to streams and  
lakes below.



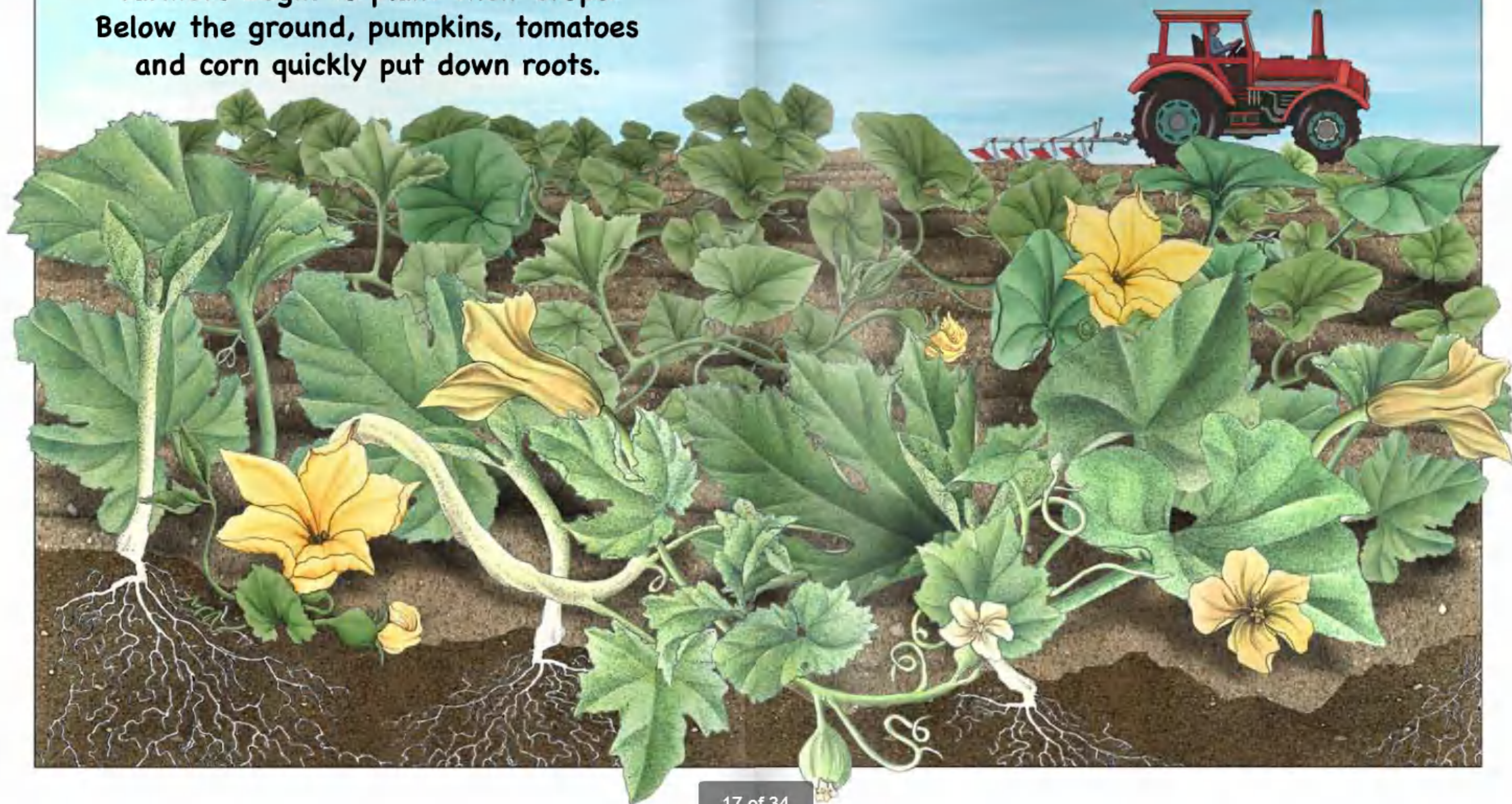




**Cherry, peach and apple trees  
explode into blossoms. Soon those  
blossoms will become fruit.**



When the ground is warm enough to dig,  
farmers begin to plant their crops.  
Below the ground, pumpkins, tomatoes  
and corn quickly put down roots.

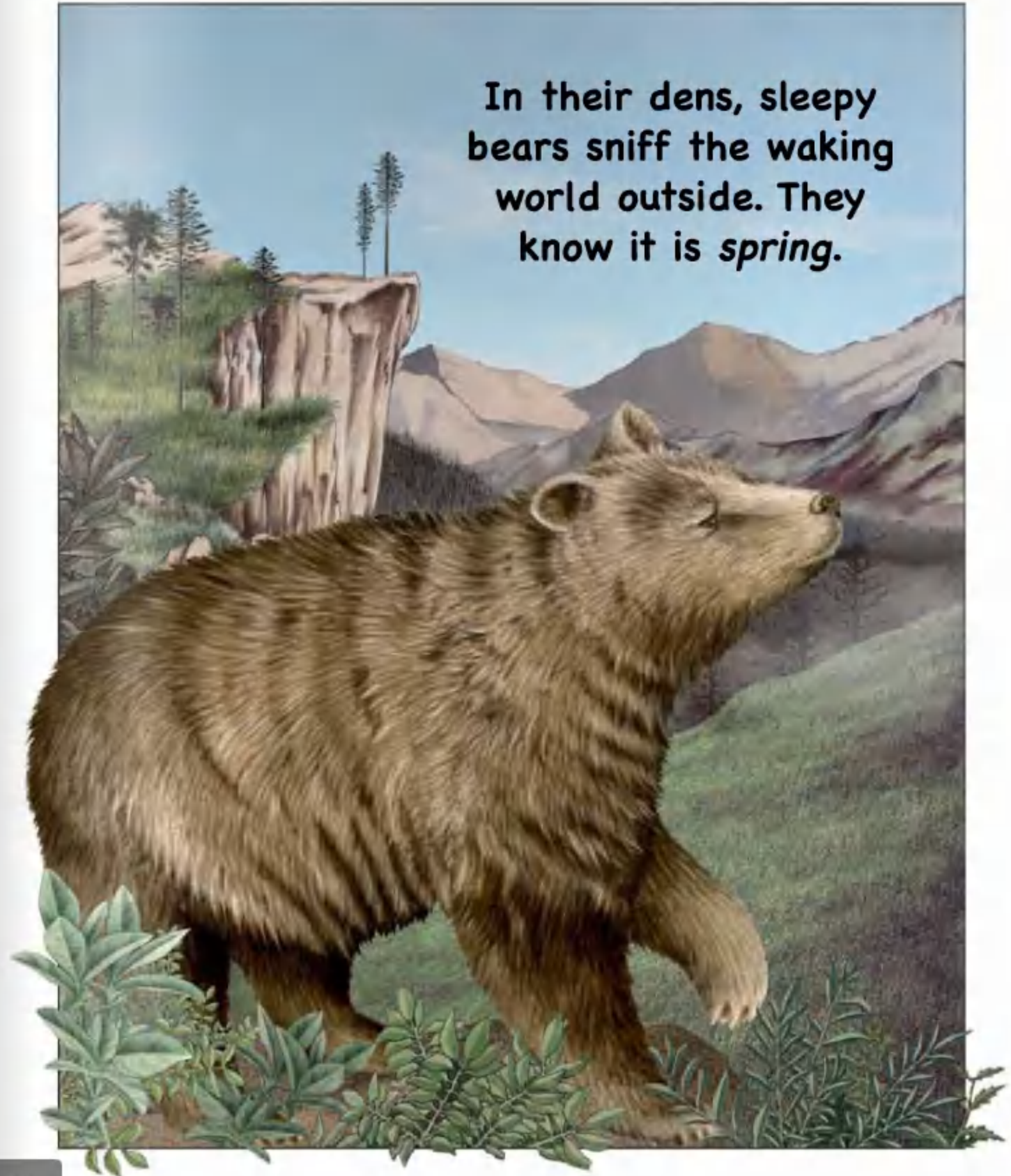




Dandelions send up shoots, soon to  
bear sunny yellow flowers. Their blooms  
turn into white puffballs of seeds that  
float off on the breeze.



In their dens, sleepy  
bears sniff the waking  
world outside. They  
know it is *spring*.







**In forests, fields and deserts, baby animals are born, blinking in the sun for the very first time.**





**Sparrows, egrets and hawks  
make their nests, using  
what they find.**



**They gather twigs, grass, bark, pine  
needles, string, feathers—even fur.  
Then they lay their eggs and...wait.**







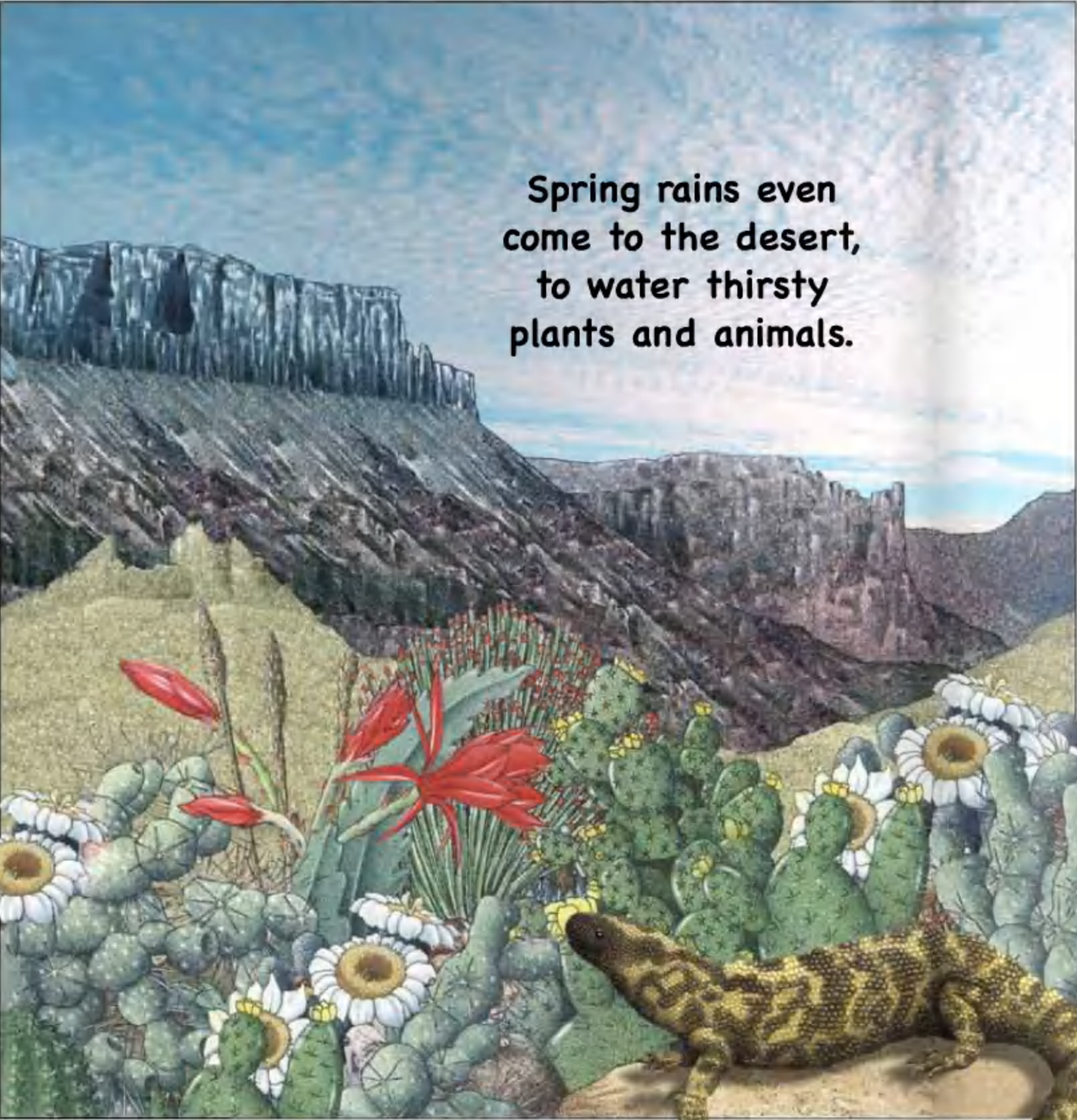
When the eggs hatch, the birds go back and forth, back and forth, bringing food to open little beaks. The baby birds chirp. *Peep! Peep!*



Spring rains pour down. In towns  
and cities, children *splish* and  
*splash* in muddy puddles.







Spring rains even  
come to the desert,  
to water thirsty  
plants and animals.



When the ground is wet and  
the lakes are full, *bzzzzzzz...*  
It's time for mosquitoes  
to show up!



Soon enough, the sleepy  
summer heat will come.



Summer will give way to fall.  
Fall will give way to winter.





And then, sure as night follows day, the seasons will change again. The grass will grow green. The flower buds will bloom. And last year's hatchlings will take care of their own young. Once more, it will be **SPRING.**



And then, sure as night follows day, the seasons will change again. The grass will grow green. The flower buds will bloom. And last year's hatchlings will take care of their own young. Once more, it will be **SPRING.**





**By the end of the long, dark winter, the world is holding its breath, waiting for spring! The snow begins to melt and the days begin to get longer. Tiny buds appear on the trees. Spring is coming!**



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